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### **REINVIGORATION OF THE SINGLE MARKET IS THE ANSWER FOR A STRONGER EUROPE**

BUSINESSEUROPE strongly supports the conclusions of the European Commission's interim report to the 2007 Spring European Council outlining the EU single market's vision for the 21<sup>st</sup> century adopted today.

The single market is the EU's most tangible success story and is central for Europe's welfare and growth, competitiveness and job creation. Yet its full capacity has not yet been tapped and it is challenged by increasing national protectionism and the need for adjustments to a rapidly evolving environment.

For BUSINESSEUROPE, action should concentrate on completion of the main economically relevant legislative gaps; better law-making relying on efficient and technology-friendly standards; timely and correct implementation of Internal Market laws; and effective enforcement including better market surveillance and application of the mutual recognition principle for both goods and services.

Philippe de Buck, Secretary General of BUSINESSEUROPE said: *"Further integration of the single market must be a top priority for both EU and national governments. It is key to the European economy's competitiveness. More progress should be made in the field of services and energy. National governments must also live up to their responsibilities and increase their efforts to improve enforcement of single market laws and principles. It is at national level where the single market takes shape"*.

#### NOTE TO THE EDITOR

BUSINESSEUROPE – the Confederation of European Business represents more than 20 million small, medium and large companies. Active in European affairs since 1958, BUSINESSEUROPE Members are 39 central industrial and employers' federations from 33 countries, working together to achieve growth and competitiveness in Europe.

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